

Dear Waterboard Members,

I attended your hearing in Santa Rosa relating to the proposed requirements for upgrade/repairs to rural septic systems.

One point brought up that evening was that there are funds available to help homeowners who financially cannot afford to make required upgrades/repairs to their systems.

I would like to call your attention to another potential very costly requirement related to upgrades/repairs to systems that was not brought up at the meeting. I'm referring to communities here in West Sonoma County which were established in the 1920's, 30's, 40's which were traditionally recreational communities. The lots for these communities (ones that first come to mind are Camp Meeker, Villa Grande, Monte Rio as well as other communities along the Russian River) were established on paper only (i.e. paper lots) and probably in most cases no survey monuments were set to determine property corners or boundaries. At this point, should a homeowner who needs to provide an accurate site plan to the County for his upgrade/repair, would be burdened with yet another terribly expensive process - having a surveyor determine the boundaries of his property, and even if the boundaries were determined, many of the lots are so small that it's doubtful there would be room for an oswt even at present day requirements. One of your own State of California employed land surveyors could explain how difficult and cost prohibitive this type of survey would be.

Were these 'paper lot' communities considered when the Waterboard revised their new rules? And, also, if the Waterboard, as part of their recommendations, ever considered requiring homeowners who face this situation to tie in to community wastewater treatment plants rather than having individual systems?

Thank you,
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